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Letter dated 20 September 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1772 (2007), in which the Council requested me to report to it within 30 days after the adoption of the resolution, I have the honour to inform members of the Council of the steps I have undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 6, 7, 15 and 16 of the resolution since its adoption.

In implementation of paragraph 6, in which the Council requested me to intensify my efforts to strengthen the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) and promote an all-inclusive political process, I have initiated the development of an integrated strategy for Somalia based on a two-track approach: (a) a political track to encourage dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government and all opposition groups both inside and outside Somalia, in the hope of bringing about a cessation of hostilities that would allow for the establishment of broad-based and inclusive transitional institutions; and (b) a security track that would necessitate the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to a level that provides the necessary conditions for the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces.

In an effort to promote an all-inclusive political process, in close cooperation with regional and international partners, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, participated in the meeting of the International Contact Group in Rome on 10 September 2007, at which participants called on the transitional federal institutions to implement in good faith the recommendations of NRC and to urgently develop a road map for the remainder of the transition period, including the drafting of the new Federal Constitution, the conduct of a population census and preparations for national elections in 2009, as set out in the Transitional Federal Charter.

Further to my letter to the Council dated 27 August 2007 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), I recommend that UNPOS be provided with the necessary resources to implement an integrated United Nations approach for Somalia leading to a common United Nations peacebuilding strategy.

The strategy will include the facilitation of mediation with all Somali parties; the coordination of United Nations political, security, electoral, humanitarian and development support to the Somali transitional federal institutions; and collaboration with external partners engaged in facilitation efforts. At Headquarters, discussions are under way on the possible establishment of an integrated task force, to be led by the Department of Political Affairs, to define common United Nations

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strategic objectives in Somalia that would inform the elaboration of a United Nations integrated plan.

With respect to AMISOM, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Safety and Security have initiated discussions on further support that could be provided to the Mission and will soon consult with the African Union on the nature and scope of that support. The Department of Safety and Security will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the security situation in Mogadishu to determine the requisite capacity for AMISOM to secure that city and advise the Secretary-General on the possibility of relocating UNPOS from Nairobi to Somalia.

Since my last report on Somalia, a team of 10 military, police and civilian planners has fully deployed to Addis Ababa and is assisting the African Union in the continued planning and management of its mission in Somalia. Among other activities, the United Nations planners have assisted the African Union in revising the concept of operations for AMISOM and provided briefings to a Burundian reconnaissance team before it undertook an assessment visit to Mogadishu.

In a letter dated 4 August, African Union Chairperson Konaré reiterated the call of the African Union Peace and Security Council for the United Nations to put in place a financial, logistical and technical support package for AMISOM, and proposed that experts from the two organizations should meet to work out the details of such a package. Despite the absence of the essential conditions for a peacekeeping operation to succeed, it is still important to provide further support to AMISOM to enable it to increase its strength and effectiveness, as it could help in stabilizing Mogadishu, at least in the short term. Currently, the African Union is facing serious financial, logistical and other constraints in deploying troops which would join the two Ugandan battalions already in the Somali capital. I have informed Mr. Konaré that the United Nations stands ready to explore, together with the African Union, how it may provide further assistance in strengthening and expanding the Mission's presence on the ground. In addition to providing further technical advice to the ongoing efforts at African Union headquarters, the United Nations could assist in mobilizing bilateral assistance for troop-contributing countries, thereby speeding up the deployment of pledged contingents and possibly encouraging other countries to contribute troops. In this connection, we have requested the African Union to provide detailed information on the Mission's concept of operations and supporting plans, as well as any indication of the type of support that it envisions. Once the United Nations receives this information, we will be better placed to prepare for the proposed meeting of technical experts to develop an appropriate support package.

I remain of the firm belief that it is crucial to ensure that the conditions set out in my report of 25 June 2007 are in place before the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation can be considered a realistic and viable option.

The security situation in Mogadishu has been deteriorating in recent weeks, with a sharp increase in targeted assassinations and incidents of direct armed confrontation between Transitional Federal Government and Ethiopian forces on one side and insurgent groups on the other. In addition, clashes between clans and sub-clans increased in other regions of southern Somalia during the month of August. In view of the current security environment, a new technical assessment

mission which could spend enough time inside Somalia to gather detailed information about the conditions on the ground has not been possible. On the other hand, I did not consider it worthwhile to dispatch an assessment mission to the region with only limited access to Somalia, as such a mission would have been unlikely to add much to the findings of the one that was sent in March of this year. Nevertheless, military and other experts have continued to review and update the existing contingency plans. While the probable tasks and disposition of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in southern and central Somalia have not changed significantly since my last report, the continuing volatility of the security situation could mean that additional troops with armoured vehicles would be required.

In the meantime, given the complex security situation in Somalia, it may not be advisable to limit the options for security arrangements only to the deployment of AMISOM and a United Nations peacekeeping force. One other option that could be explored is the deployment of a robust multinational force or coalition of willing partners for a specific period of time, with the limited objective of securing a specific area that could pave the way for the withdrawal of foreign forces.

In early July, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations held a series of informal exploratory meetings with potential troop contributors, during which they were given an opportunity to discuss the details of the Organization's contingency plans and indicate their possible interest in participating in a possible future mission in Somalia. Although some of the Member States that participated in these meetings expressed a tentative interest in providing troops, most of them made it clear that they would not commit personnel to an operation in Somalia unless the necessary conditions were in place, in particular at a time of unprecedented demands on United Nations peacekeeping.

On the humanitarian side, the food security and nutrition situation has deteriorated dramatically in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions of Somalia. According to the September 2007 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FAO/FEWSNET) food and crop assessment, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 1 million to 1.5 million. This figure includes 295,000 people in a humanitarian emergency, requiring life-saving interventions; 490,000 people in acute food and livelihood crisis, requiring livelihood support; an estimated 325,000 additional internally displaced persons (IDPs) since April 2007; and 400,000 protracted IDPs. Some 85 per cent of those identified as being in a humanitarian emergency and 31 per cent of those identified as being in acute food and livelihood crisis are in the Shabelle regions. Recent nutrition surveys confirm that acute malnutrition rates in those areas are currently above the 15-per-cent emergency threshold. Insecurity in the south-central regions due to banditry and illegal roadblocks by armed freelance militias (238 roadblocks reported as of August) that impose taxes on humanitarian commodities are the main impediments to aid delivery.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia is threatening commercial shipping and impeding the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance. The rise in the frequency of pirate attacks has resulted in higher shipping costs and a significant reduction in the number of cargo vessels in the water. Close to 80 per cent of World Food Programme (WFP) assistance to Somalia is shipped by sea; however, due to piracy, the availability of ships willing to carry food to the country has been halved. So far this year, there have been 15 attacks on ships in or near Somali waters, including

two on WFP-contracted vessels, with a security guard killed in one of them. In 2006, there were 10 attacks.

In March 2006 the Security Council responded to reports of piracy in a presidential statement which encouraged United Nations Member States with naval vessels and military aircraft operating in international waters and airspace adjacent to the coast of Somalia to be vigilant against piracy and to take action to protect merchant shipping, especially vessels being used to transport humanitarian aid.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security

I. Introduction

1. In its presidential statement of 26 October 2006 on women and peace and security (S/PRST/2006/42), the Security Council welcomed the first follow-up report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/770) on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan[1] for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) across the United Nations system. The Action Plan, covering the period 2005-2007, was mandated by the Council in its presidential statement of 28 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/40). It constituted the first attempt by the United Nations system to develop a holistic and coherent United Nations strategy for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The first implementation review of the Action Plan was held in 2006.[2] It noted that while the United Nations system had made commendable efforts and significant progress in many areas of the Plan had been achieved, much more remained to be done to overcome institutional and organizational challenges. The development of essential elements, such as baseline data, performance indicators and timelines as effective tools for measuring performance, was required.

2. In its presidential statement of 26 October 2006 (S/PRST/2006/42), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to update, monitor and review the implementation and integration of the Action Plan on an annual basis and report to the Council, as stipulated in the statement by the President of the Council of 27 October 2005 (S/PRST/2005/52). It further requested the Secretary-General to collect and compile good practices and lessons learned and to identify remaining gaps and challenges in that respect. The present report responds to those mandates.

II. Methodology for the System-wide Action Plan review and update

3. During the open debate of the Security Council on women and peace and security on 26 October 2006, Member States called for an update of the Action Plan within a results-based management framework across the United Nations system.

[1] See S/2005/636.
[2] See S/2006/770.

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They stressed the need for effective monitoring, evaluation and accountability systems for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

4. The review of the implementation of the 2005-2007 System-wide Action Plan and its update for 2008-2009 was a consultative, collaborative process, with the participation of all concerned United Nations entities and in cooperation with civil society organizations. Internally, the main consultative bodies were the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The consultations were launched with the Secretary-General's letter of 28 February 2007 to heads of United Nations entities. Two follow-up letters, dated 20 April and 8 June 2007, of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women drew the attention of United Nations entities to the need to fully implement the 2005-2007 Action Plan and to transform it into a results-based programming, monitoring and reporting tool for 2008-2009. The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, held several inter-agency brainstorming sessions on priorities, coverage and indicators for an updated 2008-2009 Action Plan. Partners from civil society actively participated in those consultations. Following the sessions, the Office prepared three separate reporting templates on (a) the progress made in the implementation of the 2005-2007 Action Plan, (b) an updated 2008-2009 Action Plan and (c) good practices and lessons learned in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

5. Responses to the second implementation review of the 2005-2007 Action Plan were received from the following 30 United Nations entities: Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Political Affairs; Department of Public Information; Department of Peacekeeping Operations; Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Office for Disarmament Affairs; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); United National System Staff College; World Bank; World Food Programme (WFP); and World Health Organization (WHO).

6. To update the Action Plan for 2008-2009, extensive consultations were held within both the Inter-agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security and the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, including on such aspects as baselines, indicators, time frames and focus on results. A first "shell" outline of the updated Action Plan with performance indicators was discussed by the Network at

its sixth annual session in February 2007. At its resumed session in July, the Network held further inter-agency consultations on the system-wide indicators for implementation of the 2008-2009 Action Plan and its format. The updated Action Plan for 2008-2009 has been posted on WomenWatch, the Network's website (http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/wps).

III. Progress achieved since the first implementation review of the 2005-2007 Action Plan, held in 2006

7. The second implementation review focused on progress achieved by the United Nations system in the implementation of the Action Plan during the period 1 July 2006-1 July 2007. In conducting the second review, the same methodology as in 2006 was applied. The review was linked to the 12 strategic areas of action included in the 2005-2007 Action Plan[3] and specific intergovernmental objectives derived from resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent related presidential statements of the Security Council (S/PRST/2001/31, S/PRST/2002/32 and S/PRST/2004/40). Under each area of action, United Nations entities reported on their activities to fulfil those intergovernmental objectives that fall within their respective mandates.

8. Analysis of the responses received from United Nations entities revealed that important groundwork has been laid for a longer-term effort by the United Nations system towards the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Many entities reported an increased political commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in peace processes (strengthened or new gender mainstreaming policies and procedures in various areas of action), strengthened capacity-building (support to national capacity-building, staff training and development of new tools and methodologies), an enhanced institutional environment (increased accountability, new mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on women's status and contributions to peace processes, strengthened data collection and gender-sensitive resource mobilization); improved advocacy, enhanced leadership and greater support by senior officials; and better engagement with Member States and partnerships with national machineries for women, women's associations and networks.

9. Many activities reported by United Nations entities fell under the category of capacity-building. Delivery was made in a broad range of settings at the headquarters, national and regional levels. The objective was to develop the capacity of United Nations peace support, peacebuilding, humanitarian and development operations in order to more effectively support Member States in strengthening women's human rights protection and women's participation in the political, security and social sectors. The entities provided a broad range of training activities for preventing and responding to gender-based violence in armed conflict.

A. Conflict prevention and early warning

10. In this area of action, the strategic focus of United Nations system activities has been on mainstreaming a gender perspective in all conflict prevention work, including the development of gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms, increased

[3] See S/2005/636, annex.

female participation in all conflict prevention work and decision-making, and the provision of training on gender issues for all staff working on early warning and conflict prevention. Thirteen entities[4] provided information on the efforts they undertook to meet those objectives. Of those, five entities — the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNEP and WFP — had an action plan for gender mainstreaming in all their work in the area of conflict prevention, which they were implementing. The Department of Political Affairs, for instance, completed the first biannual reporting on its action plan for integrating a gender perspective into its activities. Moreover, two of its five field missions developed individual action plans within the overall framework of the Department's plan.

11. With regard to initiatives taken to increase women's participation, the Office for Disarmament Affairs held two consultations with the Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Trinidad and Tobago, and consulted with nine non-governmental organizations on women and conflict issues. In addition to consultations, the Department of Political Affairs, together with UNDP, co-sponsored the training of local actors in conflict prevention skills in Guyana. Thirteen of the 33 facilitators trained were female.

12. Seven United Nations entities undertook work on early warning mechanisms.[5] UNICEF, in cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, operated a rapid response mechanism in four conflict-affected provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through that mechanism, 34,086 victims of violence were identified in 2006, of whom 80 per cent were estimated to have been women and girls. OHCHR facilitated the special procedures of the early warning function on women's human rights violations through communications with Governments, official country missions and women's organizations. Since June 2006, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences has sent 75 communications to Governments regarding cases of concern within her mandate.

13. The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR and WFP continued to focus on training to raise awareness and develop the capacity of staff for conflict prevention work. As of July 2006, for example, all new staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at Headquarters had received such training. Ninety-two per cent of participants indicated that they had found that training to be "very useful" or "useful".

B. Peacemaking and peacebuilding

14. In the area of peacemaking and peacebuilding, 12 entities of the United Nations system[6] focused on the development of policies, conducting training and various capacity-building initiatives with a view to promoting women's full

[4] The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ECA, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, OHCHR, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM and WFP.

[5] The Department of Political Affairs, ECA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM and WFP.

[6] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ESCAP, INSTRAW, OSAGI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM and WFP.

participation in all stages of the peace process, including in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. The Department of Political Affairs, for example, reported that the development of individual action plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) by the field missions contributed to their work on promoting women's participation in the peace process. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations conducted four national consultations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia and Afghanistan to collect good practices on facilitating women's participation in the electoral process, including through the introduction of quotas. WFP reached an 84 per cent female participation rate in its food-for-training programme, exceeding the 70 per cent target set in its gender policy. Since July 2006, UNICEF has provided gender training for 500 staff members of the community-based and international organizations in the Sudan. In cooperation with Save the Children-Sweden, UNICEF also trained 3,300 military observers, protection forces and civilian police officers in Darfur on gender-based violence and provided gender-awareness training for 200 staff members from the Fund's partner organizations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

15. The United Nations entities also ensured that the Security Council missions included gender specialists in their teams and incorporated in their terms of reference a gender perspective and the rights of women and children. The Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women launched an awareness-raising campaign for the national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) that comprised a training component, including the development of a national action plan. With the financial support of the Government of Norway, the implementation of the project has been initiated in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with ECA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively. UNIFEM facilitated meetings between local women's groups and Council missions in the Sudan, Kosovo (Serbia) and Fiji, and advocated reference to resolution 1325 (2000) in the draft resolution on Kosovo. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued updating the Peacebuilding Portal, an interactive website, that now includes 2,300 profiles of prevention and peacebuilding organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, up by 300 since 2006, 290 of which focus on gender issues. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNIFEM and UNDP provided support to local women's organizations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for instance, reported that a total of US$ 140,000 had been disbursed for the capacity-building efforts for local women's organizations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Timor-Leste.

C. Peacekeeping operations

16. United Nations system-wide efforts in this area mainly covered developing policy and operational tools to facilitate gender mainstreaming in all thematic and functional areas of peacekeeping, providing training to all peacekeeping personnel and developing and maintaining a knowledge base of learning, research and best practices. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations adopted a policy directive on gender equality in peacekeeping operations, which was successfully used to develop guidelines for facilitating a standardized approach to gender mainstreaming both at Headquarters and in the field. Progress was also recorded in the incorporation of gender expertise in all peacekeeping mandates. As a result, of 18 peacekeeping

missions, 11 have a full-time gender adviser, 8 of whom are at the P-5 level, and 7 have gender focal points. In February 2007, an all-female police contingent from India was deployed to Liberia.

17. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OHCHR, UNICRI, UNIFEM and UNITAR highlighted their work in gender and human rights training. For instance, the UNITAR Programme of Correspondence Instruction in Peacekeeping Operations offers an online course on integrating a gender perspective in United Nations peacekeeping operations which is designed to educate all interested individuals. Over the first six months of 2007, 103 women enrolled, of a total of 558 from 59 Member States. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs delivered seven training courses, which included a gender equality aspect, to approximately 400 African civilian peacekeeping personnel, 30 per cent of whom were female. OHCHR continued to provide training to military and police personnel deployed or to be deployed to peacekeeping operations on gender issues, women's rights and trafficking. The OHCHR training package is successfully used also by Member States in their pre-deployment training programmes. An evaluation of the UNICRI training package on human trafficking revealed that after having successfully completed the training, the skills and capacities among international police and justice administration personnel deployed in missions had been significantly enhanced.

18. In December 2006, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations launched the Gender Community of Practice, which seeks to facilitate sharing good practices and lessons learned in peacekeeping. As will be discussed later, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in collaboration with other United Nations entities, initiated the development of a database for the collection of good practices for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) (see section V below).

D. Humanitarian response

19. Some United Nations entities[7] undertook activities for the further development and implementation of policies and strategies on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all humanitarian assistance and on providing operational support in that respect. The implementation of a common policy of mainstreaming gender equality programming in humanitarian action, including the strengthening of the monitoring and accountability frameworks, was facilitated by distribution of a Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action ("Women, Girls, Boys and Men — Different Needs, Equal Opportunities") prepared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance, co-chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and WHO. UNHCR reported on finalizing a three-year plan for the implementation of its age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming strategy. WFP conducted a second revision of its emergency food security and needs assessment handbook from a gender perspective. UNRWA revised the consolidated eligibility and registration instructions for aid so as to

[7] The Department of Political Affairs, FAO, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNRWA, WFP and WHO.

remove gender discrimination in the provision of services to women refugees married to non-refugees.

20. To facilitate gender mainstreaming, a number of entities[8] provided training to humanitarian personnel. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda trained 96 investigators and legal personnel in gender research methodology and gender mainstreaming. Based on the feedback received, 95 per cent of the trainees were satisfied with the training they had received. UNHCR improved the level of active participation by refugee and displaced women in the humanitarian assistance programmes. As of the reporting date, their target of 50 per cent women's representation had been achieved in 61 per cent of the 93 refugee camp food committees and in 37 per cent of the 114 refugees camp management committees.

E. Post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation

21. Over the reporting period, many United Nations entities[9] had made progress in the development and implementation of both policies and strategies on gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes and had instituted activities specifically targeting women and girls. UNESCO and FAO supported research on gender mainstreaming in policies and projects for post-conflict reconstruction. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda established several policies and mechanisms to coordinate the short- and long-term physical and social rehabilitation of witnesses. WFP assisted Governments in mainstreaming gender into food security programmes. The World Bank assisted Governments in economic and social recovery by pursuing the policies of the post-conflict needs assessment and the rapid response to crisis and emergencies. Both policies paid particular attention to the needs of war-affected groups, especially women and children. Through its Post-Conflict Fund, the World Bank also financed projects on mainstreaming gender into physical and social reconstruction activities in Haiti and Iraq. ESCAP completed a technical background paper, "Strengthening gender-responsive governance in the UNESCAP region: a building block for post-conflict reconstruction policies", while INSTRAW organized virtual discussions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into security sector reform for more than 150 participants around the world.

22. The United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been actively working on incorporating a gender perspective in mine action initiatives and operations. The first Gender Equality in Mine Action Workshop was organized in September 2006. Each of the six United Nations-managed and supported mine action programmes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, the Sudan and Yemen developed a specific gender action plan. In addition, they each have a gender focal point and an established reporting mechanism on gender balance. With the aim of integrating a gender perspective into a monitoring system for the protection of civilians, the Office for the Coordination

[8] FAO, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, WFP and WHO.

[9] The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ESCAP, INSTRAW, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM and WFP.

of Humanitarian Affairs addressed the problem of protection of women and girls in 25 per cent of the reports to the Security Council on the protection of civilians.

23. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ESCWA, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNHCR and UNIFEM undertook targeted activities focused on bridging the gap between men's and women's access to productive resources and capital. In this regard, ESCWA launched an e-caravan in Lebanon, a centre teaching men and women the use of information and communication technologies for future employment, while UNHCR started a multi-year business women's initiative to assist displaced women to rebuild their livelihoods.

24. In order to further advance the promotion and protection of women's human rights, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ESCWA, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, UNICEF and WFP promoted the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, its Optional Protocol and other human rights instruments through technical assistance projects, advisory services and training. The Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through the Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group, supported the promotion of Convention implementation in Haiti, while the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department organized consultations and training missions on the preparation of Convention reports for government officials and non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Similarly, ESCWA organized 12 advisory services missions within its region, including to Palestine, Lebanon and Yemen. In 2006, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda spent $509,765 on promoting human rights of women through its capacity development programmes. Technical assistance was also provided to the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Uganda by UNICEF in order to address gender concerns in legislative development and reforms.

25. Some entities, such as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, INSTRAW, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM and WFP, assisted mass media representatives in their advocacy efforts to promote human rights of women and children. UNIFEM conducted a consultation with 15 Iraqi journalists in regard to the campaign to stop violence against women in Iraq.

26. United Nations entities actively promoted the participation of women in decision-making. They advocated the effective involvement of women in post-conflict reconstruction and governance frameworks, including, as appropriate, through reviewing legislation, promoting positive measures and organizing leadership training. In this connection, OHCHR reviewed the Constituent Assembly Members Election Bill in Nepal to ensure inclusive and proportional representation of women in the Constituent Assembly; WFP conducted training in leadership skills, gender and HIV/AIDS in the field offices; ESCWA trained 100 Iraqi women in electoral reform and constitution drafting; UNDP commissioned a report on "Parliament, gender and conflict transformation" to ensure gender mainstreaming in parliamentary decision-making; and the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations focused their efforts on preventing marginalization of women in the electoral processes. A participatory assessment

conducted by UNHCR in Angola revealed that of 19 community-level areas, only 5 had reached 40 per cent of female representation in decision-making bodies.

F. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

27. Progress on mainstreaming a gender perspective and the integration of the special needs of women and girls in all relevant policies and programmes on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration was highlighted by a number of entities.[10] For example, the World Bank incorporated a new gender programme, "Gender Learning for Equality, Access and Peace", into its multi-country demobilization and reintegration programme to focus on the special needs of ex-combatant women and girls. The new programme includes activities such as gender mainstreaming, development of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools, as well as seminars and outreach with relevant stakeholders. The implementation by UNICEF of reintegration projects led to the release of 1,122 girls of a total of 2,155 girls from armed forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 855 girls of 2,018 children in Sri Lanka. Through their reporting to the Security Council on its resolution 1612 (2005), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict addressed the needs of girls in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

28. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards, which addressed gender issues in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration procedures. Practical implementation and overall monitoring of the standards by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration resulted in the increase of demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatant women and girls. For example, in Liberia, of 101,000 ex-combatants, 22,370 women and 2,440 girls were disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated in the community.

29. In order to enhance their effectiveness, United Nations entities organized a wide scope of gender-awareness training for different categories of personnel engaged in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities. The Office for Disarmament Affairs trained 42 female members of the law enforcement community on investigation techniques at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Iraq, UNOPS focused on awareness-building through programmes to rehabilitate victims of torture, to empower women to actively participate in the electoral process and to promote a human rights culture.

G. Preventing and responding to gender-based violence in armed conflict

30. The Department of Political Affairs, ECA, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, OHCHR, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-

[10] The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNOPS, the World Bank and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration.

General for Children and Armed Conflict, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNRWA, the World Bank and WFP provided details of actions taken to respond and prevent gender-based violence in armed conflict. The majority of them assisted Member States in their efforts to align national legal systems with international norms and standards, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. For instance, in Uganda, OHCHR advocated the improvement of rape reporting mechanisms and the establishment of a national network of legal-aid providers for, among others, victims of gender-based violence. In Nepal, OHCHR worked with the Government and other United Nations entities to bring the domestic violence law into compliance with the international standards. ECA conducted a workshop in Algeria to accelerate the realization of women's human rights, through human rights education in schools. UNRWA incorporated international humanitarian and human rights laws into its project activities. Gender-based violence constituted one of the issues contained in the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council prepared by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee continues to pursue a multisectoral coordinated approach to gender-based violence programming in emergency settings through the organization of various workshops and training on the Committee's gender handbook. For instance, the first international workshop for gender advisers in humanitarian areas was organized in May-June 2007.

31. The issue of ending impunity for gender-based violence attracted attention from many United Nations entities. Some organized training programmes, while others provided necessary expertise. UNIFEM and UNFPA conducted gender training of police in southern Sudan. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda provided training of Rwandese legal practitioners to enhance their capacity for prosecuting genocide perpetrators. To date, 33 judgements have been handed down, comprising 28 convictions, including 4 rape charges. In Uganda, UNIFEM conducted an assessment of the Mato Oput system, through which cases of atrocities against women were heard with a view to providing them with redress.

32. With regard to the prevention of and response to gender-based violence in armed conflict, certain progress was noted. For example, UNHCR aims at establishing in all its operations standard operating procedures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. To date, standard operating procedures have been established at 78 per cent of the 126 refugee camps and 54 per cent of 90 urban settings. UNIFEM has trained 30 Iraqi non-governmental organizations in identification of and combating gender-based violence. WHO, in partnership with UNHCR, UNFPA and the International Committee of the Red Cross updated the guidelines on the clinical management of rape in emergencies and developed training courses/modules to improve the response by the health sector to rape in emergency settings. UNICEF implemented several projects aimed at prevention of gender-based violence and response to the needs of victims of sexual violence committed in conflict zones in Afghanistan, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda. Conducted in partnership with UNFPA and UNHCR, two of those projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided medical and/or psychosocial care and/or economic reinsertion support to 34,086 victims of gender-based violence in 2006. A new joint initiative

by 10 United Nations entities[11] entitled United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, chaired jointly by UNDP and WHO, was launched in 2006 to improve the quality of programming so as to address sexual violence, increase the coordination of efforts for comprehensive prevention and response services and improve accountability. The United Nations Action initiative was designed to highlight and create awareness about sexual violence during and after conflicts and, ultimately, to put an end to it.

H. Preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel

33. In order to determine how much progress had been achieved in this area, an assessment was made based on the extent to which implementation of the United Nations policy on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse was adhered to by United Nations entities. It included the enhancement of monitoring mechanisms and the investigation of cases of alleged misconduct. A significant number of actions were undertaken during the reporting period. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations established specific procedures for investigation and monitoring in all peace operations. Adherence to those procedures is monitored either by conduct and discipline personnel or by focal points for sexual exploitation and abuse deployed in the missions. The Department conducted investigations of all alleged cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and took appropriate actions. Moreover, United Nations standards of conduct were incorporated in the draft model memorandum of understanding between troop-contributing countries and the United Nations. Similarly, WFP also established sexual exploitation and abuse focal points and investigation and monitoring mechanisms in its country offices. The Executive Committees on Peace and Security and on Humanitarian Affairs Task Force on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, chaired by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, created and disseminated training tools for awareness-raising at the Headquarters and field levels, organized regular monitoring and reporting, maintained statistics of allegations, developed a policy on victim referral and supported the establishment of victim referral mechanisms in the field.

IV. Update of the Action Plan for 2008-2009

A. Key challenges

34. Both the 2006 and the 2007 implementation reviews clearly demonstrated that progress had been made by United Nations entities in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). However, they also identified a number of institutional gaps and challenges as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the Action Plan itself. Some challenges faced by the United Nations system in the area of women and peace and security are emblematic of the challenges identified by the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian

[11] The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP and WHO.

assistance and the environment[12] in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment. Such challenges include incoherence, inadequate funding of gender-related projects, fragmentation and insufficient institutional capacity for oversight and accountability for system performance as well as low capacity for gender mainstreaming. Although outside the scope of the System-wide Action Plan, those challenges contribute to the gap between implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the country level and the global, regional and national commitments on gender equality in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction.

35. Adequate and predictable funding is crucial for efficient and sustainable implementation of the resolution. However, many United Nations entities do not have adequate core funding earmarked for women, peace and security. Extrabudgetary resources, which remain the main source of funding for gender-related projects, are neither sufficient nor predictable. An overwhelming majority of United Nations entities have therefore been able to provide only estimates of their allocations for implementation of the resolution.

36. One of the major lessons learned from the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2005-2007 is that without concerted efforts with Governments and civil society at the country level, the implementation of the resolution would remain elusive. Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the resolution. In many conflict and post-conflict countries, national mechanisms and machineries for the advancement of women have been established but need to be strengthened to ensure women's active participation in public policy formulation on matters of war and peace. Furthermore, the active support and involvement of a broad and diverse civil society is essential for the resolution's implementation and monitoring. Yet, the establishment of effective links between the Action Plan and national implementation efforts remains a serious challenge.

37. Other challenges are more related to the format of the current System-wide Action Plan. The 2005-2007 Action Plan was not established as a tool for monitoring, evaluation and accountability. Moreover, it was not established as an integrated United Nations system-wide strategy but rather as a compilation of ongoing activities by United Nations entities or in those areas of action where expertise and resources were available. In addition, it did not provide a link between the actions reported and their impact on the lives of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. Taken together, such gaps and challenges constituted shortcomings of the system-wide action plan and limitations in the organizational capacity of the United Nations system to effectively implement resolution 1325 (2000).

38. The first implementation review of the System-wide Action Plan noted that "beyond 2007, the Action Plan would need to be reconceptualized in order to transform it into a results-based programming, monitoring and reporting tool".[13]

B. Policy framework

39. The updated System-wide Action Plan for 2008-2009 is rooted, as was its predecessor, in intergovernmental mandates contained in resolution 1325 (2000) and

[12] See report of the High-level Panel (A/61/583, paras. 47-49).

[13] See S/2006/770, para. 43.

the related presidential statements.[14] The resolution and the statements provide the overall policy framework for identifying goals, results and implementation strategies in thematic areas of the updated Action Plan. The Plan for 2008-2009 was developed as a results-based framework. The updated Action Plan has the potential to produce concrete and replicable results, generate knowledge and enhance capacity at many levels within the United Nations system and in support of Member States.

40. A key lesson learned from the first and second implementation reviews of the Action Plan is that the 12 areas of action contained in the 2005-2007 Action Plan are too broad and need to be sharpened in the updated Action Plan. Accordingly, all activities of United Nations entities under the updated 2008-2009 Action Plan would be consolidated into the following five thematic areas: prevention; participation; protection; relief and recovery; and normative. In January and July 2004, two Security Council working round-table discussions addressing the integration of the thematic resolutions of the Council into the country-specific work of the Council, identified prevention, participation and protection as thematic areas common to the implementation frameworks of core thematic resolutions of the Council, namely resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1296 (2000) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, resolution 1366 (2001) on the role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflict, resolution 1460 (2003) on children in armed conflict and resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, and core themes for preventing conflict and building and maintaining peace and security. They are cross-cutting and interlinked, and provide Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders with the basis for cross-theme synergies to effectively implement and monitor activities under resolution 1325 (2000).

41. In addition to the three thematic areas of prevention, participation and protection, two additional thematic areas — relief and recovery, and normative — were included in response to the intergovernmental mandates contained in resolution 1325 (2000) and the subsequent presidential statements of the Security Council.[14] It is important to ensure that the needs and concerns of women are addressed in a sustainable manner both in relief and recovery operations, as well as in policy and programme development. Moreover, those areas were identified as priorities for many United Nations entities in the Action Plan for 2005-2007.

42. The goals of the updated Action Plan in the five thematic areas are as follows:

(a) *Prevention*: mainstream a gender perspective into all conflict prevention activities and strategies, develop effective gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms and institutions, and strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women, including various forms of gender-based violence;

(b) *Participation*: promote and support women's active and meaningful participation in all peace processes as well as their representation in formal and informal decision-making at all levels; improve partnership and networking with local and international women's rights groups and organizations; recruit and appoint women to senior positions in the United Nations, including Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and in peacekeeping forces, including military, police and civilian personnel;

[14] S/PRST/2001/31, S/PRST/2002/32, S/PRST/2004/40, S/PRST/2005/52, S/PRST/2006/42 and S/PRST/2007/5.

(c) *Protection*: strengthen and amplify efforts to secure the safety, physical or mental health, well-being, economic security and/or dignity of women and girls; promote and safeguard human rights of women and mainstream a gender perspective into the legal and institutional reforms;

(d) *Relief and recovery*: promote women's equal access to aid distribution mechanisms and services, including those dealing with the specific needs of women and girls in all relief recovery efforts;

(e) *Normative*: develop policy frameworks; ensure effective coordination and awareness-raising to advance the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

43. Planning and reporting on resolution 1325 (2000) under the consolidated five thematic areas have been placed at the programme level, rather than at the level of individual activity, as it was in the 2005-2007 Action Plan. This will allow aggregation at the United Nations system-wide level and facilitate analysis of gaps and overlaps.

C. Implementation strategies

44. Within these thematic areas and based on resolution 1325 (2000), the following strategies by United Nations entities will guide the operationalization of the 2008-2009 Action Plan:

(a) *Policy development*: to develop policy directives, norms and standards, including for project design, reporting, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) *Advocacy*: through partnerships with Member States, civil society and other actors, to raise awareness, including through training, media and outreach and information campaigns about the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000);

(c) *Capacity-building*: to support national capacities to implement the resolution and provide related technical assistance, provide training, develop and update guidelines for gender analysis and mainstreaming and build individual and/or institutional capacity for implementation of the resolution;

(d) *Partnership and networking*: to develop and strengthen partnerships or networks with Governments, civil society and regional and international organizations for the implementation of the resolution;

(e) *Provision of goods and services*: to ensure equal access by women and their associations and networks to goods and services.

D. Results-based management framework

45. The results-based management framework of the 2008-2009 System-wide Action Plan is predicated on delivering concrete and measurable results at both the national and international levels for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The framework has been designed to enable the United Nations system to effectively deliver the planned outputs through better system-wide coherence and inter-agency coordination. It is intended to strengthen the United Nations system's ability to effectively use planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation tools and to

improve accountability for the results. The new framework of the Action Plan will provide information on

- Progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the level of the Action Plan by measuring progress made in achieving the goals under each of the five thematic areas (prevention, protection, participation, relief and recovery, and normative)
- Expected accomplishments or results for each activity planned by United Nations entities and how this activity would contribute to advancing one of the five thematic areas
- Qualitative or quantitative indicators of output/expected achievement to determine the changes produced by the activity
- Baseline data against which progress can be measured
- Resources available for implementation of the activities under the Action Plan to allow for an improved analysis of actual resources available for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

E. Accountability, monitoring and reporting

46. Enhanced accountability is the cornerstone of the United Nations system's efforts in implementing the 2008-2009 Action Plan. The Action Plan is posted online and serves as the basis for accountability within the United Nations system to major stakeholders, especially Member States. The goals and outcomes set in the Action Plan represent a shared accountability of the system to the Security Council, other Member States and, through them, to women whom all United Nations entities ultimately serve. Each entity will be held accountable for its contributions to the Action Plan. This translates into the accountability of the head of each entity, programme managers and the staff. The links to national implementation plans on resolution 1325 (2000) would provide additional accountability dimensions to women in focus countries and tailor United Nations actions to national gender-equality priorities and realities.

47. The results-based management framework would improve monitoring of the outcomes of the Action Plan. Each United Nations entity will continue to monitor and evaluate the outcomes for which it is responsible under the Action Plan, using the goals, indicators and outcomes, as planned. In consultation with all participating United Nations entities, a mechanism to oversee the implementation of the 2008-2009 Action Plan will be developed for the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) through its subsidiary bodies.

48. The United Nations system will seek to improve inter-agency coordination through the High-level Committee on Programmes of CEB, as suggested in the original report of the Secretary-General outlining the 2005-2007 Action Plan.[15] Inter-agency coordination is one of the core elements of the system-wide policy on gender equality and empowerment of women and the strategy on gender mainstreaming approved by CEB in December 2006.[16] The implementation of the

[15] See S/2005/636, para. 25 (b).

[16] See CEB/2006/2, annex.

system-wide policy and strategy would improve the overall inter-agency coordination and coherence of the United Nations system.

49. The United Nations system will also further seek improved reporting on results of the implementation of the resolution. Using the set of common indicators, the system will report on the progress in achieving results under the Action Plan. The annual frequency of reporting and the related extensive consultations have proved not to be cost-effective. Moreover, with its reporting period being out of step with the biennial budget cycles of the United Nations system entities, it does not allow for proper planning of resources and activities under the Action Plan. Thus, it does not contribute to enhanced effectiveness in reporting and ensuring accountability for results. Accordingly, the Secretary-General reiterates his recommendation, contained in paragraph 26 of document S/2005/636, to report on the overall implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on a biennial basis. Such reporting would improve efficiency in terms of staff time and costs and provide more comprehensive information to Member States.

V. Building a database on good practices and lessons learned

50. As stated in paragraph 2 above, in its presidential statement of 26 October 2006 (S/PRST/2006/42), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General "to collect and compile good practices, lessons learned and identify remaining gaps and challenges in order to further promote the efficient and effective implementation of resolution 1325" (2000).

51. In response to that request, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security established a working group consisting of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, UNDP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and UNIFEM to study mechanisms for collecting information on good practices and lessons learned. The working group invited United Nations entities to submit collectively or individually information about initiatives that have been pursued in the period between the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on 31 October 2000 to date, which they considered might qualify as a good practice. By 15 June 2007, a total of 19 potential good practice cases had been received from 13 United Nations entities.

52. A special panel to be established by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, consisting of women's groups, external gender experts and representatives of the United Nations system, will evaluate proposals submitted by United Nations entities in accordance with the eligibility criteria. Subsequently, a database of good practices will be established.

53. The database, once established, would enable United Nations entities and national partners to generate and use knowledge resulting from good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). It will comprise good practices and lessons learned that are implemented at the global, regional, national and/or local levels. The database will be focused on results, in particular on how the lessons learned will have contributed to advancing major goals in the areas of women, peace and security in the five thematic areas of the 2008-2009 Action Plan.

54. The database of good practices and the new planning and monitoring tools for the United Nations System-wide Action Plan would constitute an important step towards the establishment of an effective knowledge and information management system, an institutional gap that was identified in the implementation review of the 2005-2007 Action Plan. Through "good practices" it would be possible to demonstrate the impact of the implementation of the resolution on women's lives, improve public policy at the national level based on what works and raise the awareness of decision makers at all levels of potential solutions to existing problems.

VI. Conclusions and further actions to accelerate the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

55. The United Nations system has made significant advances in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). Progress, though uneven, has been achieved in many substantive areas of the 2005-2007 Action Plan. The United Nations entities focused on development and implementation of policies and strategies on mainstreaming a gender perspective and human rights, in the areas of peace and security; strengthening advocacy; enhancing capacity-building; training; developing of gender-mainstreaming handbooks, manuals and guidelines; improving institutional mechanisms for accountability, monitoring and reporting and building strategic partnerships with women's national machineries and women's organizations and networks. However, the implementation review of the 2005-2007 Action Plan confirmed the existing institutional and organizational gaps and challenges in the implementation by the United Nations system of resolution 1325 (2000).

56. The 2008-2009 Action Plan has been reconceptualized to become a results-based programming, monitoring and reporting tool. A sharpened focus on five thematic areas of prevention, protection, participation, relief and recovery and normative, strengthened synergies and partnerships, and increased results-based orientation present an opportunity for the United Nations system to scale-up significantly its efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) as well as to support Governments to fulfil their commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment in the area of peace and security. By shifting focus from project to programme implementation, the System-wide Action Plan provides a broader framework linked to national peace and reconstruction processes and further commits the United Nations system to enhance coherence and integrate a gender perspective in support of gender equality and women's empowerment.

57. The overarching goal of the 2008-2009 System-wide Action Plan is to develop the capacity of United Nations peace support, humanitarian and post-conflict reconstruction operations so that they can support the efforts of Member States in strengthening national capacity to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in peace and security areas consistent with national priorities and international gender equality norms and policies set by resolution 1325 (2000). Demand-driven support for national capacity development will be at the core of the 2008-2009 Action Plan. To implement the Plan, the United Nations system would need to fully engage Governments and civil society. It is therefore essential that the United Nations system build on the progress made so far in implementing the Action Plan and integrate more closely its activities and strategies with national efforts for

the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The goals and outcomes of the Action Plan would need to be included in national planning systems on the implementation of the resolution and Member States would need to be supported in meeting their national priorities in areas of women and peace in an effective and sustainable manner. Special attention should be paid to assisting Member States emerging from conflict to develop national plans for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In a few countries, mostly developed ones, national action plans and strategies for the implementation of the resolution have been formulated to coordinate domestic policies, development aid and implementation activities. However, in many others, the resolution needs to be publicized and implemented more effectively.

58. To further accelerate the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and improve and sustain the United Nations system-wide efforts in the area of women and peace and security, it is recommended that:

(a) Member States, particularly those in conflict and post-conflict situations, develop national action plans to drive the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), improve oversight and emphasize results;

(b) The United Nations system provide support and assistance in the rapid development of national action plans, including financial and human resources, to Member States, particularly those affected by conflict;

(c) The United Nations system work closely with national mechanisms responsible for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), including, where appropriate, through the United Nations country teams;

(d) The international community support national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the United Nations System-wide Action Plan, including by providing adequate financial resources in a timely and sustainable manner;

(e) The United Nations system assist national authorities in their efforts to review the performance of United Nations entities, donors and other international and national stakeholders in implementing resolution 1325 (2000);

(f) The United Nations system accelerate the development of a comprehensive knowledge and information management system, accessible to Member States, in order to share good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the resolution;

(g) The United Nations system, working through the CEB High-level Committee on Programmes and with the participation of all concerned United Nations entities, enhance operational inter-agency coordination and promote joint programming and resource mobilization;

(h) All stakeholders engage high-level leadership in advocacy and raising public awareness of resolution 1325 (2000), especially in conflict and post-conflict countries;

(i) All stakeholders support and learn from informal and innovative grass-roots initiatives led by women's organizations and networks;

(j) The Secretary-General ensure the inclusion of progress in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and concerns related to women, peace and security in all country-specific reports to the Security Council using the five thematic areas of the System-wide Action Plan where appropriate;

(k) The Secretary-General develop, in cooperation with all participating entities, a system-wide monitoring and evaluation mechanism, conduct a system-wide evaluation in 2010 of the progress achieved in the coordinated implementation of the resolution through the 2008-2009 System-wide Action Plan and reports to the Security Council;

(l) Member States strengthen monitoring and accountability for the national implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), including through the establishment of a Security Council mechanism to monitor national implementation.

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Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1762 (2007)

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 1762 (2007) of 29 June 2007, the Security Council terminated the mandates of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in relation to Iraq under relevant Council resolutions. In paragraph 5 of resolution 1762 (2007), the Council also requested the Secretary-General to report within three months on steps taken to provide for the appropriate disposition of UNMOVIC archives and other property under arrangements ensuring, in particular, that sensitive proliferation information or information provided in confidence by Member States is kept under strict control.

2. The present report outlines the steps taken in that regard in the past three months, the work that is still outstanding and an estimate of the time and human and financial resources required for the completion of the task assigned by the Council for the appropriate disposition of the archives and other property.

II. Archives

3. UNMOVIC archives are contained in a variety of media: paper, electronic records, tapes, films and artefacts. The archives include those of the United Nations Special Commission, the predecessor of UNMOVIC, that were taken over by UNMOVIC pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11 of resolution 1284 (1999). Together, all archives will hereinafter be referred to as the UNMOVIC archives. They comprise some 1,400 linear feet of documents, 80 gigabytes of electronic records and 400 gigabytes of Geographic Information System data.

4. UNMOVIC documents consist mainly of the following categories of information:

(a) Inspection materials, including planning and operational documents, and daily and final inspection reports;

(b) Declarations and related documents provided by Iraq;

(c) Non-public working papers, including analyses and assessments and other materials prepared during the course of UNMOVIC activities;

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(d) Reports and letters of Iraq, the Special Commission and UNMOVIC, published as documents of the Council, as well as the correspondence of the Executive Chairmen;

(e) Information obtained from Member States, corporate entities and individuals containing, inter alia, intelligence information and information about suppliers to Iraq;

(f) Administrative, personnel and financial records.

5. In paragraph 5 of resolution 1762 (2007), the Council referred to two categories of information in UNMOVIC archives that it particularly wished to keep under strict control and thus to protect from wider dissemination: (a) sensitive proliferation information; and (b) information provided in confidence by Member States.

6. Since the adoption of resolution 1762 (2007), attention has been focused on fulfilling the Council's wishes as noted above. No clear dividing line can be drawn between sensitive proliferation information and information provided in confidence by Member States since there is overlap between the two categories.

Sensitive proliferation information

7. Broadly stated, any information that may assist a country, individual or other entity to develop weapons of mass destruction or long-range missiles has been treated as sensitive proliferation information requiring protection with regard to access thereto. This encompasses, for example, information relating to technology, research, production and storage, particular compositions of bacterial growth media for producing biological warfare agents, the technical details of the production and weaponization of chemical warfare agents and the technical specifications and production parameters for long-range missiles.

8. While not exhaustive, the list below includes some examples of sensitive proliferation information contained in the UNMOVIC archives:

(a) Declarations by Iraq (full, final and complete disclosures submitted to the Special Commission and the currently accurate, full and complete declaration submitted to UNMOVIC) and other related documents, such as letters submitted by Iraq seeking to clarify unresolved disarmament issues;

(b) Procurement-related documents;

(c) "Cookbooks", blueprints, production processes and test results;

(d) Inspection reports.

9. On at least three occasions, UNMOVIC has, after advising the Council, removed sensitive information from certain documents prior to their wider release. The most notable instance was in December 2002 with respect to the currently accurate, full and complete declaration that Iraq submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1441 (2002). On that occasion, UNMOVIC developed guidelines that it used to redact proliferation and other sensitive information from the declaration before it was circulated to non-permanent members of the Council. The guidelines were subsequently applied in the preparation of the UNMOVIC compendium of Iraq's proscribed weapons programmes in the chemical, biological and missile areas, which was placed on the UNMOVIC website on 28 June 2007,

and also the summary of the compendium that was earlier released as a Council document (S/2006/420). The guidelines were also applied when responding to the request of the Government of Iraq in April 2006 for information on its chemical weapons programme to allow Iraq to complete an initial declaration required under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Information provided in confidence by Member States

10. As stated above, some information provided in confidence by Member States also falls within the category of sensitive information and therefore is also covered by paragraph 5 of resolution 1762 (2007). Examples of this category include:

(a) Intelligence information;

(b) Information from Governments regarding past supplies of equipment and material to Iraq;

(c) Export/import notifications (of the sale or supply of dual-use items and material) under Security Council resolution 1051 (1996);

(d) Overhead imagery, such as that from satellites and U-2 Mirage aircraft.

Other sensitive information

11. In addition to the two above-mentioned categories, the names of individuals, companies and countries that supplied Iraq with material used in weapons of mass destruction programmes by the former regime are deemed sensitive, as are the names of Iraqi personnel involved in such programmes in Iraq.

Organization of material

12. Given the volume and diversity of the material involved, it has not been possible to fully organize the transfer of individual documents to the Archives and Records Management Section. Although such a transfer would allow fuller and easier retrieval of documents in the future, it would require at least a year to complete the project. Instead, the organization of the archives has centred on the storage of folders in boxes of collections of similar documents. Each folder has a description of its contents, and each box also has an inventory of the folders it contains. A database with those descriptions and associated software has been established. This system makes it possible to locate boxes and their relevant folders on a specific issue. Work has already been under way along these lines for the past three months. In sum, approximately 4,000 folders have been completed and 500 boxes have been filled, representing some 50 per cent of the paper archives and roughly one third of the overall project. Meetings have been held between UNMOVIC and the Archives and Records Management Section to give the latter a better picture of the organization and nature of the UNMOVIC archives and to discuss a work plan proposed by the Section. The two bodies are also working on a retention schedule to be applied to the archives.

Classification guidelines

13. The guidelines mentioned in paragraph 9 above and which were applied on earlier occasions have also been followed in this instance. The work has also been guided by the principles set out in the Secretary-General's bulletins

(ST/SGB/2007/5 and ST/SGB/2007/6), which deal with record keeping and management of United Nations archives and information sensitivity, classification and handling. When the guidelines are applied at the collection level, it emerges that the bulk of the archive has been classified as strictly confidential. Some other parts of the archive, such as inspection planning documents, internal working studies and memoranda, have been classified as confidential. The rest of the information in the archives, such as documents of the College of Commissioners and open source material, has been marked unclassified.

Access to UNMOVIC archives

14. Given the Council's view that proliferation and other sensitive information and information provided in confidence by Member States (which is classified as strictly confidential or confidential) should be kept under strict control, it is proposed that access to this information be restricted, in the first instance, for a period of 20 years. At the end of that period, in accordance with ST/SGB/2007/6, documents marked confidential will be declassified, therefore open to general viewing. Documents that are marked strictly confidential will be reviewed at the end of that period at five-year intervals to determine whether they should continue to remain strictly confidential or should be declassified also.

Privileged access to UNMOVIC archives

15. Without prejudice to the restrictions referred to in paragraph 14 above, and unless the Security Council decides otherwise, earlier access to documents marked strictly confidential or confidential may be permitted in specific cases by the Secretary-General to Member States and relevant international organizations, such as IAEA, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the United Nations Environment Programme. It may be necessary at an appropriate stage to consider the desirability of designating a unit within the Secretariat to handle such cases as well as the periodic reviews mentioned in paragraph 14 above. Given the sensitivity of the material and the non-availability over time of experts familiar with the documentation, however, the Council might wish to keep these documents sealed for an initial period of 20 years, with no possibility of exceptional early access. A bulletin of the Secretary-General governing the management, preservation, storage and use of and access to the UNMOVIC records is currently in preparation. If exceptional access is to be granted to the archives, rules regulating such access will be included in the bulletin, which will be finalized once the Security Council has provided its guidance on the regime proposed in the present report.

Human and financial resource implications

16. The implementation of the collection system of archiving should, under current staffing levels, result in expeditious completion of the archives. Staffing levels are expected, however, to decline because of the progressive departure of staff during this liquidation phase. Some use of temporary assistance is anticipated to avoid delays in the completion of the work on the archives. The related financial implications to cover the liquidation costs arising under resolution 1762 (2007) have required the reservation of obligations so that the planned transfer of unencumbered funds in the account established pursuant to paragraph 8 (e) of resolution 986 (1995) to the Government of Iraq through the Development Fund for Iraq can be effected as of September 2007. The staffing level of UNMOVIC has been reduced from

38 Professional and 11 support staff to a current level of 17 Professional and 6 support staff. That level is expected to be further reduced to 15 Professionals in the near future, though the support staff levels will remain unchanged during the liquidation. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1762 (2007), the sum of $36.5 million has been encumbered. Most of the encumbered funds ($24.5 million) represent final payment for services rendered to the Special Commission, as envisaged in paragraph 6 of that resolution. The remaining balance of $12 million represents estimated expenditure to complete the liquidation process. Such expenditure will include costs incurred by the Archives and Records Management Section (such as facility and security upgrades, archival supplies and human resources), separation and after-service care costs, rent, security costs and costs incurred in connection with the disposition of UNMOVIC property. Accordingly, about $25.1 million will be available for transfer to the Development Fund for Iraq before 29 September 2007.

UNMOVIC website

17. The UNMOVIC website (www.un.org/Depts/unmovic) is an integral part of the UNMOVIC archives. It contains the texts of relevant resolutions, all UNMOVIC quarterly reports, Security Council briefings and other background information on the activities of UNMOVIC, principally the compendium of Iraq's proscribed weapons programmes. It is in the public interest that this unique and voluminous collection of information be maintained in one single place (as in the case of the website of the Special Commission). It is proposed that the Department of Public Information, in conjunction with the Information Technology Services Division, maintain the UNMOVIC website.

Transfer of archives

18. Following the classification and organization of its records, UNMOVIC will transfer all of them to the Archives and Records Management Section of the Office of Central Support Services, which will in turn transfer them to permanent storage in the archives of the United Nations. The Section will take steps, whenever necessary, to maintain, preserve and repair the records for continued storage.

Electronic records

19. In cooperation with the Archives and Records Management Section, work is also under way to document and describe UNMOVIC electronic records and databases to permit their future management. Once completed, the electronic data will be transferred from UNMOVIC to the Section which will store them on a secure non-networked storage device. The existing electronic data will need to be maintained and upgraded as necessary by the Section to take account of technological advances and to ensure that the records remain viable. In individual cases, access will be granted to electronic data in the same manner as to hard copy records.

III. Property

20. At the time of the termination of the UNMOVIC mandate, non-expendable property with an acquisition value of approximately $11 million remained in Baghdad, Kuwait, Larnaca and New York. On 1 August, cases were submitted to the Headquarters Property Survey Board, with the recommendation, inter alia, that equipment should be sold, returned to stock or donated to other agencies.

21. There are approximately 29 different categories of inspection-related equipment that carry some kind of export restriction or end-user certificate. Much of the protective gear and detection and sampling equipment was supplied with restrictions against transfer. This property has been advertised to the United Nations community as possibly available to those organizations qualifying under the various restrictions. The Department of Safety and Security has expressed an interest in obtaining much of the equipment. In addition, UNMOVIC is in the process of contacting the manufacturers of the equipment to determine whether they would be willing to buy it back.

22. On 27 August 2007, Hoshyar Zebari, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, wrote to the Secretary-General requesting the return to Iraq of non-sensitive items and assets, such as equipment that had been purchased with funds from the escrow account.

23. In a letter dated 25 September, the Secretary-General informed the Minister that the Headquarters Property Survey Board had considered the disposition of various categories of UNMOVIC property and provided recommendations thereon in accordance with the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The Government of Iraq has been given lists of property and offered first right of refusal to receive UNMOVIC property that is not sensitive or subject to export controls or other end-use restrictions. The property includes non-sensitive United Nations-owned assets comprising communications, engineering, inspection, medical, supply, transport and office equipment, office furniture, computers, printers, fax machines, generators, air conditioners, filing cabinets, photocopiers, refrigerators, projectors, safes, shredders, televisions, video recorders, audio-visual equipment, power supply units and laboratory test equipment and supplies. UNMOVIC is also seeking the advice of various Governments as to whether export restrictions can be lifted on certain equipment in order to make it also available to Iraq.

24. The collection of inert and non-hazardous weapons artefacts, remnants of the actual weapons that United Nations inspectors took possession of during inspection activities in Iraq, has been offered to relevant United Nations agencies. A list of such items is currently being considered to determine which of them should be retained by the Organization for historical purposes. All remaining items not transferred to other United Nations entities will be destroyed under United Nations supervision.

25. UNAMI staff in Kuwait and Baghdad and UNFICYP staff in Cyprus are cooperating to help dispose of surplus and unserviceable equipment at those locations not wanted by the Government of Iraq, in accordance with rule 105.22 (ST/SGB/2003/7).

IV. Other developments

26. On 24 August 2007, while archiving the files of UNMOVIC, staff members discovered two small packages containing metal and glass containers with unknown liquid substances. The archives are located at UNMOVIC headquarters on the 3rd and 6th floors of 866 United Nations Plaza. An initial investigation revealed that the items had been recovered from the former Iraqi chemical weapons facility in Al-Muthanna by United Nations inspectors in 1996. On 29 August, the inspection report containing an inventory of the items was recovered. The inventory showed that one item may have contained phosgene ($COCl_2$) suspended in oil. Phosgene is an old-generation chemical warfare agent and also a dual-use chemical. The inventory also indicated that the other package contained nuclear magnetic resonance reference standards in sealed glass tubes.

27. Following the discovery of these items, UNMOVIC chemical weapons experts sealed the packages and placed them in a safe, which was then isolated in a secured room on the 6th floor of the building. The experts also tested the environment surrounding the packages by means of a portable chemical detector and found no concentration of toxic vapours in the air. There was no immediate danger and UNMOVIC staff continued to work in their premises. The Department of Safety and Security secured the room and stationed a security officer outside UNMOVIC premises on a 24-hour basis. Other security measures have been taken by the Department to enhance physical security of the premises.

28. On 29 August, the members of the Security Council and the host Government were informed of the discovery; the following day, steps were taken to have the material safely recovered and disposed of. The United States authorities conducted an analysis of the material removed from the UNMOVIC premises and concluded that it did not contain any harmful substances.

29. On 31 August, the Secretary-General stated that he took very seriously the late discovery of potentially hazardous material at the UNMOVIC offices. He sought and was given confirmation that the materials that had been in the custody of UNMOVIC posed no risk to the general population and that all necessary measures continued to be taken. He also gave immediate instructions for an internal investigation to be conducted with the aid of external expertise.

30. A three-member fact-finding panel was formed involving outside expertise. The panel has begun its investigation and will endeavour to finish its work by the end of October 2007.

31. The task entrusted to the panel was to ascertain the following:

(a) The circumstances under which the substances in question were brought to Headquarters in New York;

(b) The inspection team members involved in the transportation of relevant materials from Iraq, and other details, including dates, mode of transportation, documentation and shipping routes;

(c) Why the presence of the items was discovered only in 2007 and not earlier;

(d) The safety procedures in place at Headquarters and in the field offices (concerning, for example, storage, handling, access and chain of custody) and the extent to which those procedures were followed.

32. The panel has been requested to provide a factual report on its findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General. Given that the need for the panel arose from the conduct of UNMOVIC and Special Commission operations, the costs of the panel are to be met by the Iraq escrow account.

33. Notwithstanding the establishment of the panel, work is continuing with regard to the implementation of resolution 1762 (2007). The findings of the panel may have an impact on the time frame for the completion of the disposition of the archives and property.

V. Conclusion

34. Much has been done in the past three months to implement the decisions of the Council, as expressed in paragraph 5 of resolution 1762 (2007), with regard to the disposition of UNMOVIC archives and other property. In both cases, every effort has been made to complete the tasks entrusted to the Secretary-General as speedily as possible and in a cost-effective manner to minimize the charge to the Iraq escrow account. A more detailed approach, particularly with regard to the disposition of the archives, might have been adopted leading to the organization and retrieval of material in the archives at the individual document level, instead of at the collections level, which has been followed to date. This, however, would have required certainty at the outset as to the time and financial and human resources that would be available for the completion of the tasks. Given these and other constraints referred to in the present report, the collections method that was adopted and has been followed in the past three months seemed the only realistic option. Steps have also been taken to give the Government of Iraq the first right of refusal with regard to non-sensitive property of UNMOVIC.

35. Some of the steps being taken have underlying policy implications, and the guidance of the Council would be welcome on them. Three matters in particular might be mentioned here. The first is the duration for which the bulk of the material will be kept sealed. The standard United Nations practice is to seal archives for 20 years, but special regimes of longer duration have been established in specific cases (for example, for the Independent Inquiry Committee and the Compensation Commission). The second is whether earlier (privileged) access should be permitted to the sealed documents in individual cases. The third is whether a suitable unit within the Secretariat should be designated to advise the Secretary-General on such cases.

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Agenda items 14, 98 (x) and 108

Prevention of armed conflict

General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 18 September 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement delivered in Bamako on 1 September 2007 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali on the occasion of a meeting with the diplomatic corps concerning the situation in the Kidal region (northern Mali) (see annex).

The statement sets out the position taken by the Malian Government on this matter.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14, 98 (x) and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ami **Diallo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-51648 (E) 021007 081007

Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations

Introductory statement delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali at a meeting with the diplomatic corps

Koulouba, 1 September 2007

Thank you for your presence here this morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In the company of my colleagues from the ministries of territorial administration, defence and planning, I shall be speaking to you, distinguished ambassadors, heads of missions and representatives of international organizations, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mali to report to you on the situation in the Kidal region.

This situation is characterized by the increasing number of terrorist acts perpetrated by a group of armed bandits led by Ibrahim Ag Bahanga: members on a mission for the African Emergency Locust Project were taken hostage at Tejiarett on 26 August 2007; military supply convoys were attacked, men killed and equipment taken at Azakak on 27 August and near to Tinzawatène on 29 August; and civilian vehicles transporting people and livestock were blown up by mines near to Tinzawatène on 30 and 31 August, causing several deaths and injuries.

In response, on the instructions of the President of the Republic of Mali, the Government has very swiftly taken appropriate measures to control the situation.

The competent authorities of Mali also brought these events to national and international public attention as and when they happened.

Having recalled these facts, I would now, and subsequently, like to emphasize the following points:

1. Preserving national territorial integrity, protecting both people and property, and defending and safeguarding the values of democracy and of the Republic are, and remain, central to the mandate not only of our armed forces and security forces but also of the Republic's other institutions, which will continue to ensure their scrupulous application.

2. The President of the Republic will continue his efforts and initiatives for a concerted approach to ensure the stability and security of our country, including at the regional level.

3. With the support of its technical and financial partners, the Government will resolutely continue Mali's economic and social development programme, particularly in the northern regions, by implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the Kidal Forum of 23 and 24 March 2007.

In that respect, specific measures have already been taken, or are under implementation, particularly in the fields of health and communication. Road construction projects have also made satisfactory progress, including the asphalting of the Gao-Kidal, Ansongo-Ménaka-Andéraboukane, Niono-Tonka-Timbuktu and Kidal-Ménaka roads.

4. Mali will continue to honour its commitments to the Algiers accord of 4 July 2006:

The formation of special security units is now complete and two companies have been set up based in Tin-Ezié and Kidal.

A social and economic rehabilitation fund has been in place following the opening of an account at the Malian Solidarity Bank, into which payments are being made by the Governments of Mali and Algeria.

Similarly, a vocational training programme is being finalized for ex-combatants of the 23 May Alliance and for young people from the three northern regions. Four hundred young people stand to benefit from this programme.

5. The Government of Mali considers the actions of the armed bandits led by Ibrahim Ag Bahanga to be a serious breach in an area of our country of the hard-won peace that is essential to regional and even international security, as well as a flagrant violation of the ideals of the Third Republic and of international law, particularly the Ottawa Treaty on anti-personnel mines.

Following the example set by the Government of Mali, the international community should strongly condemn these acts and should work together with rigour and determination to combat the perpetrators of such acts.

In that respect, the Government of Mali knows that it can count on the political, diplomatic and material support of the countries and organizations that you represent to contain this new threat to international peace and security, posed by terrorism and illicit trafficking in weapons and drugs. My colleagues and I are now ready to answer any of your questions or to receive useful suggestions.

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General and complete disarmament

Prevention of armed conflict: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 20 September 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to my letter of 18 September 2007, I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the European Union member States and the European Commission, Switzerland, the United States of America and Canada on the situation in northern Mali (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the joint statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14, 98 (x) and 108 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ami **Diallo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-52243 (E) 021007 031007

Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Republic of Mali, in its capacity as President of the European Union, presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali and has the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement of the European Union member States and the European Commission, Switzerland, the United States and Canada on the situation in northern Mali (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Statement of the European Union, Switzerland, the United States and Canada on the situation in northern Mali

Bamako, 6 September 2007

The European Union member States and the European Commission, Switzerland, the United States and Canada, which are represented in Bamako, express their deep concern over the deteriorating situation in northern Mali. They consider the use of violence to represent a threat to the stability and security of the regions of northern Mali.

They resolutely condemn the taking of hostages and use of landmines, which have already claimed a number of victims and which expose the civilian populations of the region to increased risks.

The European Union member States and the European Commission, Switzerland, the United States and Canada reaffirm their support for the efforts made by the Government of Mali and the 23 May Democratic Alliance for Change in safeguarding peace, while respecting the territorial integrity and national unity of Mali.

They reiterate their confidence in the process initiated by the Algiers Agreement of July 2006 and the Kidal Forum of March 2007 and their willingness to continue and strengthen their cooperation for the benefit of all the people of Mali.

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 24 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Acting Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, adopted on Friday, 21 September 2007 (see annex).

Furthermore, I request you kindly to circulate the above-mentioned document as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement

07-52064 (E) 011007

Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

New York, 21 September 2007

In a dangerous development in the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, on 19 September 2007, Israel's Security Cabinet declared the occupied Gaza Strip "hostile territory", declaring its intention to cut off power and fuel supplies to the already isolated and imprisoned Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

This cruel decision by Israel amounts to a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and the collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip. It is totally unjustifiable under any pretext and should be condemned.

Israel, the occupying Power, should comply with its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, which is applicable to the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this connection, it must be emphasized that the Gaza Strip remains a part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to halt all of its violations and grave breaches of international law and to scrupulously abide by its legal obligations under international humanitarian law as an occupying Power.

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Security Council

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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning the situation in Sudan, in particular resolutions 1769 (2007) of 31 July 2007, 1713 (2006) of 29 September 2006, 1672 (2006) of 25 April 2006, 1665 (2006) of 29 March 2006, 1651 (2005) of 21 December 2005, 1591 (2005) of 29 March 2005, and 1556 (2004) of 30 July 2004 and statements of its President concerning Sudan,

Stressing again its firm commitment to the cause of peace throughout Sudan, full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005, full implementation of the framework agreed between the parties for a resolution of the conflict in Darfur (the Darfur Peace Agreement), and an end to the violence and atrocities in Darfur,

Reiterating its belief in the basis provided by the Darfur Peace Agreement for a lasting political solution and sustained security in Darfur, *deploring* that the Agreement has not been fully implemented by the signatories and not signed by all parties to the conflict in Darfur,

Noting with strong concern the ongoing violence, impunity, and consequent deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and reiterating its deep concern about the security of civilians and humanitarian aid workers and about humanitarian access to populations in need, and calling upon all parties in Darfur to cease offensive actions immediately and to refrain from further violent attacks,

Demanding that there should be no aerial bombings and the use of United Nations markings on aircraft used in such attacks, strongly urging those parties who have not yet agreed to participate in negotiations on 27 October 2007 in Libya under AU/UN mediation to do so at once, and demanding that the parties to the conflict exercise restraint and cease military action in order to create a positive atmosphere for these negotiations,

Commending the efforts of, and reiterating its full support for, the African Union, the Secretary-General, their special envoys, and the leaders of the region to promote peace and stability in Darfur, looking forward to the rapid deployment of the AU/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and expressing strong support for the political process under AU/UN mediation,

07-52150 (E) 280907

Recalling the 13 April 2007 midterm briefing by the Panel of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 1591 (2005) and extended by resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), and 1713 (2006), and taking note of the Panel's final report presented to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and currently under consideration, and expressing its intent to study the Panel's recommendations further and to consider appropriate next steps,

Emphasizing the need to respect the provisions of the Charter concerning privileges and immunities, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, as applicable to United Nations operations and persons engaged in such operations,

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Sudan, and recalling the importance of the principles of good neighbourliness, non-interference and cooperation in the relations among States in the region,

Determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend until 15 October 2008 the mandate of the current Panel of Experts, originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and previously extended by resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), and 1713 (2006) and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures;

2. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to provide no later than 29 March 2008 a midterm briefing on its work and no later than 90 days after adoption of this resolution an interim report to the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) of resolution 1591 (2005) and a final report no later than 30 days prior to termination of its mandate to the Council with its finding and recommendations;

3. *Requests* the Panel of Experts to coordinate its activities as appropriate with the operations of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) which will succeed it, and with international efforts to promote the political process in Darfur, and, in this context, further requests the Panel to assess in its interim and final reports progress towards reducing violations by all parties of the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 and 8 of resolution 1556 (2004) and paragraph 7 of resolution 1591 (2005), and progress towards reducing impediments to the political process;

4. *Urges* all States, relevant United Nations bodies, the African Union and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on implementation of the measures imposed by resolution 1591 (2005) and resolution 1556 (2004);

5. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.